CLAIMS

1. An object oriented computing system in an object oriented computing platform environment comprising:

a computing platform;

a plurality of objects residing on said computing platform, each including an object frame containing data attributes and at least one object method which performs actions on the associated object, said objects being arranged in an inheritance hierarchy of objects to define parent and child objects such that child objects inherit the data attributes and methods of parent objects and to further define objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated as parent and child objects such that unrelated objects do not inherit the data attributes and method of each other;

an object manager which sends messages to said objects to perform actions on the associated object frame using the associated object messages;

means, executing on said computing platform and responsive to a user request, for grouping selected ones of said objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated to each other as parent and child objects, into a plurality of Complex Objects; and

a visual support means to display visually predefined aspects of the objects and complex objects.

2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the visual support means includes visual support to define a simple object which participates in a complex object.

3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the visual support means includes visual support for presentation and manipulation of normalized data.

4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the visual support means includes visual support for computed fields.

5. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the visual support means includes visual support for summary fields.

6. A method for performing actions on objects in an object oriented computing system on a computing platform, including a plurality of objects in said object oriented computing system, each object including an object frame containing data attributes and at least one object method for performing actions on the associated object, said objects being arranged in an inheritance hierarchy of objects to define parent and child objects such that child objects inherit the data attributes and methods of parent objects and to further define objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated as parent and child objects such that unrelated objects do not inherit the data attributes and methods of each other, said object oriented computing system further including an object manager for sending messages to said object to perform actions on the associated object frame using the associated object messages; said action performing method

comprising the following steps which are performed by said object oriented computing system in response to a user request;

grouping selected ones of said objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated to each other as parent and child objects, into a plurality of Complex Objects; and

providing visual support to display visually predefined aspects of the objects and complex objects.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support to define a simple object which participates in a complex object.

8. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for presentation and manipulation of normalized data.

9. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for computed fields.

10. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for summary fields.

11. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable

by the machine to perform method steps for performing actions on objects in an object oriented computing system on a computing platform, including a plurality of objects in said object oriented computing system, each object including an object frame containing data attributes and at least one object method for performing actions on the associated object, said objects being arranged in an inheritance hierarchy of objects to define parent and child objects such that child objects inherit the data attributes and methods of parent objects and to further define objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated as parent and child objects such that unrelated objects do not inherit the data attributes and methods of each other, said object oriented computing system further including an object manager for sending messages to said object to perform actions on the associated object frame using the associated object messages; said action performing method comprising the following steps which are performed by said object oriented computing system in response to a user request;

grouping selected ones of said objects in said inheritance hierarchy which are unrelated to each other as parent and child objects, into a plurality of Complex Objects; and

providing visual support to display visually predefined aspects of the objects and complex objects.

12. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing

visual support to define a simple object which participates in a complex object.

13. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for presentation and manipulation of normalized data.

14. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for computed fields.

15. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the providing step includes the step of providing visual support for summary fields.